

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 8 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 6 are amended to further distinguish from Rivers (U.S. Patent No. 6,148,785). Claims 4 and 8 are amended to address claim dependency issues arising from the amendments to claims 1 and 6. Claim 3 is amended to recite features formerly in claim 1. Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 6 can be found in original claims 3 and 8 and paragraph [0028] of the specification. No new matter is added.

In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-6 and 8 are respectfully requested.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 because the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration as the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; and (c) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

Interview

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiner Savage in the July 13, 2009 interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

The Examiner's suggestion to amend claims 1 and 6 to recite "wherein the cast metal enters into pores of the porous body to secure the cast metal to the porous body" is appreciated. Applicants have amended claims 1 and 6 accordingly.

35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejection

Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Rivers in view of either Stoppek (JP 2002-267015) or Imamura (JP-067221). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Amended claim 1 requires, among other features, a reinforcing member that is integrally cast with a cast metal, comprising a porous body covering a portion of the reinforcing member or overall surfaces of the reinforcing member, wherein the cast metal enters into pores of the porous body to secure the cast metal to the porous body. These features of amended claim 1 provide benefits such as improving the adhesion of the reinforcing member with the cast metal, which prevents peeling of the reinforcing member from the cast metal. See paragraphs [0014] and [0028] of the specification. The combination of Rivers, Stoppek and Imamura would not have rendered at least these features, or the benefits associated therewith, of claim 1 obvious.

Rivers describes a machine using pistons and cylinder blocks or liners that are fabricated from carbon-carbon composite materials. See col. 1, lines 27-33 of Rivers. Rivers describes that stacked piles of carbon fabric 95 that make up cylinder block 92 (allegedly equivalent to the reinforcing member of claim 1) are captured between the head 96 and the crankcase 98 using a plurality of head bolts 97 to secure the cylinder block 92. See col. 5, lines 42-47, of Rivers. Rivers describes that due to the inherent porosity in carbon, carbon composite materials are used such that they soak up oil. See col. 3, lines 7-20 of Rivers.

Rivers does not describe that a reinforcing member is integrally cast with a cast metal. As agreed during the interview, the pores of Rivers remain open to allow the pores to soak up oil and the reinforcing member is not integrally cast with the cast metal. Thus, Rivers does not describe or provide any reason or rationale for one of ordinary skill in the art to have come to a porous body covering a portion of the reinforcing member or overall surfaces of the

reinforcing member, wherein the cast metal enters into pores of the porous body to secure the cast metal to the porous body, as required by amended claim 1.

As agreed during the interview, neither Stoppek nor Imamura remedy the above deficiencies of Rivers. Stoppek and Imamura also do not describe or provide any reason or rationale for one of ordinary skill in the art to have come to "a porous body covering a portion of the reinforcing member or overall surfaces of the reinforcing member, wherein the cast metal enters into pores of the porous body to secure the cast metal to the porous body." Thus, the combination of Rivers, Stoppek and Imamura would not have rendered claim 1 obvious.

Similarly, amended claim 6 requires "the cast metal enters into pores of the porous body to secure the cast metal to the porous body." For at least those reasons presented above regarding claim 1, the combination of Rivers, Stoppek and Imamura also would not have rendered claim 6 obvious.

Claims 2-5 depend from claim 1, and claim 8 depends from claim 6. For at least their respective dependency, and for the additional features recited, the combination of Rivers, Stoppek and Imamura would not have rendered claims 2-5 and 8 obvious.

In view of the above, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Concluding Remarks

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-6 and 8 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



William P. Berridge
Registration No. 30,024

Andrew B. Whitehead
Registration No. 61,989

WPB:ABW/hs

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 320850
Alexandria, Virginia 22320-4850
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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